

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

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Serial No.: 09/990,023

Filing Date: 11/21/2001

Attorney Docket No. 100.349US01

Title: PROTECTION SWITCHING MECHANISM

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action mailed on February 7, 2006 as well as the art cited. Claims 1, 4-6 and 8 have been amended. Claim 3 has been canceled. Claims 1, 2 and 4-70 are pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murdock (U.S. Patent No. 6,301,225) in view of Jones et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,633,246).

To further the application to issue into a patent, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the elements of claim 3. Claim 3 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. The Applicant, however, retains the right to reintroduce the original claim scope in claim 1 as initially filed in a continuation application. Applicant has also amended claim 8 to include the elements of claim 1 as originally filed. Claim 8 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1 and 2 under section 103.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-70 were allowed over the prior art.

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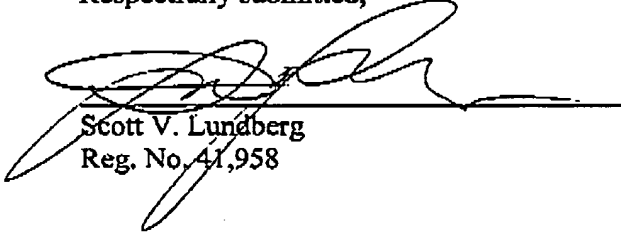
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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 2 and 4-70 are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 502432.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 455-1690.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4-24-06

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